

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

- 1 1. (Original) A computerized data file system, comprising:  
2       a first process that maintains a data file in computer-readable memory; and  
3       a second process that generates a first message requesting that said second process be  
4 granted by said first process a plurality of tokens required for said second process to modify  
5 at least one characteristic of said file;  
6       said first process generating a second message, in response to said first message, that  
7 grants said tokens to said first process if said tokens are available for grant to said second  
8 process.
- 1 2. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein:  
2       said first process is resident at a server computer node, and said second process is  
3 resident at a client computer node.
- 1 3. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein:  
2       if any of said tokens are unavailable for grant to said second process as a result of  
3 current grant of said tokens to at least one other process, said first process generates a third  
4 message revoking the current grant of said tokens to said at least one other process.
- 1 4. (Original) A system according to claim 3, wherein:  
2       said at least one other process, in response to said third message, generates a fourth  
3 message making said tokens available for grant by said first process.
- 1 5. (Original) A system according to claim 3, wherein:  
2       said first process resides in a first computer node;  
3       said second process resides in a second computer node;  
4       said at least one other process resides in at least one other computer node; and

5           said first computer, second computer, and at least one other computer nodes are net-  
6   worked together and are remote from each other.

1   6. (Original) A computer node, comprising:

2           a first process residing in said node that generates a first message that grants a set of  
3   tokens, if the set of tokens is available for grant, to a second process that requested grant of  
4   the set of tokens, the set of tokens being required for the second process to be able to modify  
5   at least one characteristic of a file stored in computer-readable memory.

1   7. (Original) A node according to claim 6, wherein:

2           each of the processes resides in a respective one of the computer nodes.

1   8. (Original) A node according to claim 7, wherein:

2           one of the processes resides in a server computer node and the other of the processes  
3   resides in a client computer node.

1   9. (Original) A node according to claim 6, wherein:

2           if at least one token in the set of tokens is unavailable for grant because the at least  
3   one token is currently granted to a third process, the first process also generates a second  
4   message that revokes current grant of the at least one token to the third process prior to gen-  
5   erating the first message.

1   10. (Original) A node according to claim 6, wherein:

2           the first message is generated by the first process in response to a request for the grant  
3   of the set of tokens generated by the second process, the request specifying all tokens re-  
4   quired for the second process to be able to modify the at least one characteristic of the file.

1   11. (Original) A computer node, comprising:

2 a first process residing in said node that generates a request to a second process for  
3 grant of a set of tokens required to enable the first process to modify at least one characteris-  
4 tic of a file residing in computer-readable memory.

1 12. (Original) A node according to claim 11, wherein:

2 the second process resides in a second computer node, and the memory is comprised  
3 in said second node.

1 13. (Original) A node according to claim 11, wherein:

2 the set of tokens comprises all tokens required for the first process to be able to mod-  
3 ify the at least one characteristic of the file.

1 14. (Previously presented) A network computer system, comprising:

2 a first computer node having a data file in computer-readable memory; and

3 a second computer node that issues to the first computer node a first message re-  
4 questing grant of a set of tokens required to carry out a modification of at least one charac-  
5 teristic of said file;

6 the first computer node issuing a second message to the second computer node after  
7 receipt of the first message, the second message granting the set of tokens to the first process  
8 if the set of tokens is available for grant to the second process.

1 15. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 14, wherein:

2 the first computer node is a server node, and the second computer node is a non-  
3 server node.

1 16. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 14, wherein:

2 the set of tokens comprises all tokens required to carry out the modification of the at  
3 least one characteristic of the file.

1 17. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 14, wherein:  
2 if at least one token in the set of tokens is unavailable for the grant because the at  
3 least one token is currently granted, the first computer node waits to issue the first message  
4 until after the first computer node receives a third message from a third computer node indi-  
5 cating relinquishment of current grant of the at least one token.

1 18. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 17, wherein:  
2 the at least one token comprises a plurality of tokens.

1 19. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory containing computer-executable pro-  
2 gram instructions, the instructions comprising:  
3 first instructions which when executed permit a data file to be maintained in computer  
4 storage memory;  
5 second instructions which when executed generate a first message requesting grant of  
6 a plurality of tokens required to modify at least one characteristic of said file; and  
7 third instructions which when executed generate a second message, in response to  
8 said first message, that grants said tokens if said tokens are available for grant to said second  
9 process.

1 20. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory containing computer-executable pro-  
2 gram instructions, the instructions comprising:  
3 first instructions which when executed generate a first message that grants a set of  
4 tokens, if the set of tokens is available for grant, to a requester of the set of tokens, the set of  
5 tokens being required to permit the requester to be able to modify at least one characteristic  
6 of a file stored in computer storage memory.

1 21. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory containing computer-executable pro-  
2 gram instructions, the instructions comprising:

3 first instructions that when executed generate a request for grant of a set of tokens  
4 required to enable modification by an issuer of the request of at least one characteristic of a  
5 file residing in storage memory.

1 22. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory according to Claim 19, further com-  
2 prising:

3 further instructions which when executed causes, if any of said tokens are unavailable  
4 for grant as a result of current grant of said tokens, generation of a third message revoking  
5 the current grant of said tokens.

1 23. (Previously presented) A computer-readable memory according to claim 22, wherein:

2 said further instructions, in response to said third message, generate a fourth message  
3 making said tokens available for grant.

1 24. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory according to claim 20, further com-  
2 prising:

3 further instructions which when executed cause, if at least one token in the set of to-  
4 kens is unavailable for grant because the at least one token is currently granted, generation of  
5 a second message that revokes previous grant of the at least one token prior to generating the  
6 first message.

1 25. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory according to claim 20, wherein:

2 the first message is generated in response to a request for the grant of the set of tokens  
3 generated, the request specifying all tokens required to be able to modify the at least one  
4 characteristic of the file.

1 26. (Previously presented) Computer-readable memory according to claim 21, wherein:

2 the set of tokens comprises all tokens required to be able to modify the at least one  
3 characteristic of the file.

1 27. (Previously presented) A computerized data file system, comprising:  
2 means for maintaining a data file in computer-readable memory; and  
3 means for generating a first message requesting grant of a plurality of tokens required  
4 to modify at least one characteristic of said file;  
5 means for generating a second message, in response to said first message, that grants  
6 said tokens if said tokens are available for grant.

1 28. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 27, further comprising:  
2 means for generating, if any of said tokens are unavailable for grant as a result of cur-  
3 rent grant of said tokens, a third message revoking the current grant of said tokens.

1 29. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 28, further comprising:  
2 means for generating, in response to said third message, a fourth message making  
3 said tokens available for grant.

1 30. (Previously presented) A computerized method for coherently maintaining and modifying  
2 a data file, comprising:  
3 maintaining a data file in computer-readable memory;  
4 generating a first message requesting grant of a plurality of tokens required to modify  
5 at least one characteristic of said file; and  
6 generating a second message, in response to said first message, that grants said tokens  
7 if said tokens are available for grant.

1 31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 30, further comprising:  
2 if any of said tokens are unavailable for grant as a result of current grant of said to-  
3 kens to at least one other process, generating a third message revoking the grant of said to-  
4 kens.

1 32. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein:

2 in response to said third message, a fourth message making said tokens available for  
3 grant is generated.

1 33. (Previously presented) A computerized method for use in maintaining coherency of a  
2 data file, comprising:  
3 generating a first message that grants a set of tokens, if the set of tokens is available  
4 for grant, to a requester of the grant of the set of tokens, the set of tokens being required for  
5 requester to be able to modify at least one characteristic of the file.

1 34. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein:  
2 if at least one token in the set of tokens is unavailable for grant because the at least  
3 one token has been currently granted, the method also comprises a second message that re-  
4 vokes current grant of the at least one token prior to generating the first message.

1 35. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein:  
2 the first message is generated in response to a request for the grant of the set of tokens  
3 generated by the requester, the request specifying all tokens required for the requester to be  
4 able to modify the at least one characteristic of the file.

1 36. (Previously presented) A computerized method for use in maintaining coherency of a  
2 data file, comprising:  
3 generating a request for grant of a set of tokens required to enable modification of at  
4 least one characteristic of the file.

1 37. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein:  
2 the set of tokens comprises all tokens required to be able to modify the at least one  
3 characteristic of the file.